



Title : Why is "catcalling" a Form of Street Harassment in The Spotlight Nowadays

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Catcalling as a form of street harassment:

Intro:

-Hook

-Background info

-Thesis statement → example: There are several reasons why catcalling is a form of street harassment

Body paragraph:

-Reason 1 (body paragraph 1)

-Reason 2 (body paragraph 2)

-Counter-argument, concession, refutation (body paragraph 3)

Conclusion:

-Restatement of the thesis statement

-Concluding remark (suggestion, advice, warning, opinion, etc.)

The girl is the most frequent target of sexual harassment in the surrounding environment. An example is catcalling which is a form of sexual harassment in public spaces and is usually carried out on the streets or other public facilities. Refers to the act of sexually harassing someone in public. It is a form of street harassment that predominantly targets women. Typical through gestures, sounds, and comments. 8 out of 10 or 80% of catcalling case victims are women. Other forms of sexual harassment include physical and verbal abuse. Perpetrators of catcalling can be groups or individuals of any gender. Their action includes seeking control and conforming to societal norms that normalize such behavior, power, or validation. There are many forms of harassment, including physical abuse and verbal abuse.

Why are 8 out of 10 victims of catcalling women? That is because several reasons for the perpetrator to do this action. According to Rainy, the influence of power relations, catcalling behavior is conditions that the perpetrator feels in a superior position or more so that he has the right to do as he pleases without considering the feelings of others (a patriarchal cultural system), limited knowledge and less education because many of the perpetrators think the actions taken are just a joke, an unequal power relationship. After all, usually, actors do this in groups who feel they have more power because they have the support of their group.

Nowadays, many people think the behavior of catcalling arises because the potential victim looks sexy and seductive, but female commissioner Rainy firmly denies this. She said the main factor for street harassment was the culture of the harasser. The reason is that 40% of women wearing closed clothes can still experience verbal abuse. It is neither justified intolerance because this phenomenon is not a form of meaningless action but includes a form

of harassment that can be caused anxiety and trauma to the victim.

There are many consequences arising from this phenomenon. I felt the trauma from this harassment evident. For example, my friend and many female students around me are afraid to go out alone at night, even to buy food at Warmino. And also avoid places if there is a lot of the man. And some of my friends who have been victims also come to psychologists because got feeling inferior and dirty.

In addition to harassment, in this era, there was also widespread harassment that was more apprehensive. For example, abuse happens on the train or commuter line, abuse to minor

Catcalling as a Form of Street Harassment

Women continue to face various forms of sexual harassment in public spaces, one of the most common being catcalling. This behaviour often occurs on streets and other public facilities through unsolicited comments, sounds, or gestures directed at women. Although catcalling is frequently considered harmless or merely a joke, data and everyday experiences show that women are the primary targets of this behaviour. Such practices reflect broader social norms and power imbalances that allow harassment to persist in public life. This essay argues that catcalling is a serious form of street harassment because it is rooted in **unequal power** relations and **patriarchal culture**, reinforces **victim blaming** against women, and causes lasting psychological and social harm to its victims.

Women are the primary victims of catcalling because this behaviour is closely linked to **unequal power** relations within a **patriarchal social structure**. In many cases, perpetrators perceive themselves as superior and believe they have the right to act without considering the feelings of others. This sense of dominance is reinforced by limited awareness and low levels of education, which lead some individuals to dismiss catcalling as a harmless joke rather than a form of harassment. The imbalance of power becomes even more apparent when catcalling is carried out in groups, as group support gives perpetrators greater confidence and social validation to engage in such behaviour.

Catcalling is often sustained by **victim-blaming attitudes** that wrongly associate harassment with women's appearance rather than the behaviour of the perpetrators. Many people assume that catcalling occurs because women look attractive or dress in a seductive manner. However, this assumption is contradicted by evidence showing that a significant number of women who wear modest or closed clothing also experience verbal harassment in public spaces. Such findings indicate that the primary cause of catcalling lies in the culture and attitudes of the harassers. By framing catcalling as a trivial or justified reaction, society minimises its seriousness, even though this form of harassment can cause anxiety and psychological distress among victims.

Some people argue that catcalling should not be considered a serious form of harassment because it does not involve **physical contact and is often perceived as harmless or trivial**. From this perspective, catcalling is viewed as merely verbal behaviour that does not cause real damage to its targets. While it is true that catcalling does not always result in physical harm, this assumption overlooks its psychological and emotional consequences. In reality, many victims experience fear, anxiety, and trauma that affect their daily lives, such as avoiding public spaces, feeling unsafe when going out alone, and even seeking psychological support. These impacts demonstrate that catcalling is far from harmless and should be recognised as a serious form of street harassment that undermines women's sense of safety in public environments.

Catcalling should be recognised as a serious form of street harassment because it is rooted in unequal power relations, reinforced by victim-blaming attitudes, and causes significant psychological harm to its victims. These characteristics show that catcalling is not a trivial or harmless behaviour, but a social problem that undermines women's sense of safety in public spaces. As long as such practices continue to be normalised, public environments will remain unsafe for many women. Therefore, greater awareness and firm responses are necessary to challenge attitudes that tolerate harassment and to promote respect and safety in everyday social interactions.